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SECURITY COUNCIL
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Letter dated 6 May 1991 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter, dated 2 May 1991, addressed to you by His Excellency Osman Ertuğ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mustafa AKSIN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 2 May 1991 from Mr. Osman Ertuğ
addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to a recent interview with Mr. Andreas Aloneftis, the Greek Cypriot Defense Minister, published in the Greek Cypriot weekly Kirikas of 6 April 1991, in connection with the ongoing Greek Cypriot rearmament campaign.

In response to recent press reports in connection with alleged cuts in the Greek Cypriot military spending and the negative economic consequences of the massive military build-up in South Cyprus, Mr. Aloneftis is reported to have said the following:

> "Recently, a campaign of rumors has been initiated. It is alleged that there is a pressing need to decrease our expenditures on arms. This is a totally impudent and demagogic campaign. It is being said that we are buying excessive armaments ... and that the economy of Cyprus would not be able to withstand such expenditures. They even claim that all our rearmament efforts are in vain. I must say, I regret these statements and I am disturbed by them. Such rumors unfortunately lead to a state of confusion and defeat among our people. The proponents of such views are those who mind solely their own comfort ..."

Mr. Aloneftis denied press reports that military purchases would be reduced and stated that in fact the Greek Cypriot administration aimed at acquiring more arms with less spending. This would be done by purchasing more advanced weapons and by bolstering the level of technology employed by the "National Guard". Mr. Aloneftis said that the Greek Cypriot military was now at a level "comparable in many areas to the most advanced and modern armies of our time". He added that the outcome of the Gulf War had shown clearly that an equally effective level of defense could be attained with less expenditures.

In addition, the Greek Cypriot Defense Minister, in outlining his immediate and future military strategies, underlined the need for the formation of a Greek Cypriot air force. He stated that the new Greek Cypriot air force would be functioning in coordination with the Greek Air Force which would complement the Greek Cypriot forces. Mr. Aloneftis announced that up to 50 Greek Cypriot personnel would be sent to Greece periodically for training in order to build an air force of 40 aircraft which would be manned by at least 1,000 qualified personnel.

Mr. Aloneftis then boasted that the Greek Cypriot National Guard was now equipped with sophisticated anti-aircraft systems and that Greek air cover was already in place over South Cyprus. He said the Greek Cypriot forces were not preparing for the "static defense of Cyprus", but were poised for "a prompt and decisive victory" in the island.

The above statements by Mr. Aloneftis unequivocally demonstrate that the recent reports to the effect that any alleged "cuts" in Greek Cypriot military spending would mean a slowing down of the rearmament campaign and military build-up in the South are false and aimed at misleading world public opinion. Far from making any reduction, Mr. Aloneftis has made it clear that his administration would continue to buy more sophisticated weaponry and to equip the "National Guard" with high-technology systems. Mr. Aloneftis even went so far as to attack those circles who encourage less military spending and common sense.

It is clear that the Greek Cypriot administration of Southern Cyprus, by mobilizing its resources for the purchase of high-technology weapons, has added new and dangerous dimensions to its rearmament campaign. The Turkish Cypriot side deems it necessary to draw the attention of all concerned to this new development which further harms prospects for rapprochement between the two peoples and an early settlement, as envisaged by Security Council resolution 649 (1990).

(Signed) Osman ERTUĞ
Representative of the
Turkish Republic of
Northern Cyprus